judgement and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of concerned countries is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft.

Indian PoWs in Pakistani Jails

2119. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan in a statement stated that it has not found any Indian Prisoner of Wars (PoWs) in any of its jails in a renewed search made after a request by Government of India at the Agra Summit;

(b) if so, whether Indian Government has insisted on a thorough investigation into the whereabouts of 54 Prisoners of Wars (PoWs) believed to be languishing in Pakistani jails;

(c) whether any modalities for a visit to Pakistan by the relatives of the missing PoWs has been worked; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) In response to the matter raised by the Prime Minister at Agra Summit, the Government of Pakistan, in September, 2001, intimated that it had conducted an 'exhaustive search' and scrutiny of jail records throughout the country to ascertain whether any Indian PoW from 1971 war was still held anywhere in Pakistan. It added that fresh investigations had once again confirmed the earlier results that no Indian PoW from 1971 war was held in any jail in Pakistan.

Pakistan had offered to receive a delegation of the families of PoWs, Government has had consultations with the relatives' Association of the PoWs in this regard. Suggestions put forth by the Association are being considered viz-a-viz Pakistani proposal as also the most opportune time for taking the process further.

Joint Indo-US Exercise in Alaska

2120. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether paratroopers of the Indian Army participated in joint exercises with the US army in Alaska, US in the month of October, 2002;

(b) the number of Indian personnel who took part in the exercises;

(c) whether such exercises are also likely to be held in India; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Paratroopers of the Indian Army participated in Joint Exercises with US Army in Alaska, USA. One platoon with one aircraft IL-76 participated in the exercise. Future exercise between Special Forces and Paratroopers of both countries would be finalized in a meeting to be held in December, 2002. A joint exercise with US Special Forces is being planned in India in April 2003.

Advanced Surveillance Equipments Along LoC

2121. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Army has requested for the acquisition and supply of advanced surveillance equipment along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Army Headquarters have recommended procurement of surveillance equipment along the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir. Accordingly surveillance equipments like Battle Field Surveillance Radars, Hand Held Thermal Imagers and Unattended Ground Sensors are being procured and deployed along Line of Control.

New Fleet of Aircraft for Dignitaries

2122. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA:
SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering acquisition of a new fleet of Aircrafts for use of dignitaries in India and abroad on the lines of Air Force one of the United States of America;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and